

REMARKS

With this Response, claims 26-33 and 35-43 are amended. No claims are added or canceled. Therefore, claims 26-43 are pending.

Telephonic Interview

Applicants' representative and the Examiner conducted a telephonic interview on April 29, 2004, in which the language of the claims and the cited references were discussed. In particular, the language and interpretation of claim 26 was discussed, as well as the application of the *Bridger* reference (see below) to the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 26-29, 31, 34-38, 40, and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,272,209 issued to Bridger et al. (*Bridger*). Applicants respectfully submit that this reference fails to anticipate the claimed invention for at least the following reasons.

Claim 26 as amended recites the following:

an RJ-11 port to receive an RJ-11 connector from end user equipment or a telephone network;

a detection circuit to automatically detect whether the RJ-11 port receives an RJ-11 connector from end user equipment or from a telephone network; and

a control circuit to automatically configure the RJ-11 port to interface to the end user equipment or the telephone network, based on the detection of the detection circuit.

Claim 34 is an independent method claim directed to detecting whether an RJ-11 port engages with a connector from end user equipment or a telephone network and automatically configuring the port based on the determination.

Bridger discusses a "local telephony port 354" that is selectively switched between

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connecting to a modem and a telephone network by a circuit that controls its connection. See col. 3, line 56 to col. 4, line 26. Bridger fails to disclose or suggest that if a connector is received by its local telephony port, or another port, a circuit detects whether the connector is from end user equipment or from a telephone network. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Bridger fails to disclose or suggest every limitation of claims 26 and 34, as required by MPEP §2131 to establish a prima facie case of anticipation. Therefore, the reference fails to anticipate the invention as claimed.

Claims 27-33 depend from claim 26, and claims 35-43 depend from claim 34. Because dependent claims necessarily include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are not anticipated by the reference for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the independent claims.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that with the amendments herein all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the above-referenced application.

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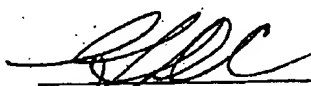
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Respectfully submitted,
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5/25/04

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